

Urban District Council of
Beaconsfield

REPORT
OF THE
Medical Officer of Health
For the Year 1947

T. P. EVANS, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.,
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

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Council Hall,
Beaconsfield,
Bucks.

June, 1948.

*To the Chairman and Members of the
Beaconsfield Urban District Council.*

Mr. Chairman and Councillors,

I have the honour to present my Annual Report for the year 1947.

During the year Local Health Authorities were required to submit their proposals for carrying out their duties under Part III of the National Health Service Act, 1946, to the Minister, and at the same time to serve copies of their proposals upon various authorities including the Local District Councils who could, if they so desired, submit counter-proposals to the Minister for consideration. The proposals of the Bucks County Council were, in the main, acceptable to this Council.

The incidence of Infectious Disease was rather higher than in the previous year. This was accounted for mainly by the increase of 99 in the number of cases of Measles and Whooping Cough. The district escaped the widespread increase in the number of cases of Anterior Poliomyelitis (Infantile Paralysis). No case of this disease was notified in the district during 1947.

The percentage figures for preventative inoculation against Diphtheria in both age groups were practically stationary. During the year under review the figures in the 0-5 age groups were 80 per cent and in the 5-15 age groups 81 per cent, whereas in the previous year, they were 81.5 per cent and 80 per cent in the respective age groups.

There were no cases of Diphtheria notified during the year.

In conclusion it is again my very pleasing duty to thank my colleagues and other Officers of the Council for their active co-operation during the year. In particular I wish to thank Mr. Crosby, the Council's Sanitary Inspector and Engineer for his assistance. Finally, Mr. Chairman and Councillors, I would like to thank you for your kindly assistance throughout the year.

I am,

Your obedient Servant,

T. P. EVANS,

Medical Officer of Health.

ARRANGEMENT OF THE REPORT.

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7. Nuisances.
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H Factories Act, 1937.

STAFF

Medical Officer of Health

T. P. EVANS, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.

Sanitary Inspector

JOHN H. CROSBY, F.I.A.S., F.I.S.E., M.R.S.I.

A General and Vital Statistics

1. Statistics and Social Conditions of the Area

Area (acres) of District	5,314
Number of Inhabitable Houses (per Rate Book)	1,820
Rateable Value of Area	£8200
Sum represented by 1d. Rate	£333

2. Population

The Registrar General's population figure is 7,400.

3. Births and Deaths

Births

(a) Live Births	Males	Females	Total
Birth Rate per 1,000 population	...	...	17.1
Birth Rate—England and Wales	...	...	20.5
Legitimate	60	51	111
Illegitimate	7	1	8

(b) Still Births

Legitimate	2	—	2
Illegitimate	—	—	—

Deaths

(a) Deaths from puerperal causes	—
(b) Deaths of Infants under one year of age ...	2
Deaths of infants per 1,000 legitimate live births	18.1

Infantile Mortality

All infants per 1,000 live births	16.8
England and Wales	41.0

<i>Diseases</i>				<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>	<i>Total</i>
1.	Heart Disease	...	...	9	16	25
2.	Cancer	...	...	4	10	14
3.	Cerebral Hæmorrhage	...	...	2	6	8
4.	Cerebral Spinal Fever	...	...	1	0	1
5.	Other Circulatory Diseases	...	...	2	1	3
6.	Pneumonia	...	...	2	2	4
7.	Bronchitis	...	...	3	0	3
8.	Other Respiratory Diseases	...	...	0	0	0
9.	Tuberculosis	...	...	1	0	1
10.	Syphilitic Diseases	...	...	1	0	1
11.	Other Digestive Diseases	...	...	1	2	3
12.	Birth Diseases	...	...	1	1	2
13.	Other violent causes	...	...	2	0	2
14.	All other causes	...	...	2	4	6
15.	Suicide	...	...	1	0	1
16.	Road traffic	...	...	0	2	2
				—	—	—
				32	44	76
				—	—	—

B Health Services in the Area

1. Hospital Services

The Minister of Health in the exercise of his powers under the National Health Service Act, published on the 18th December, 1946, an Order defining the areas of the Regional Hospital Boards. Fourteen areas are so defined of which ten are each associated with one university and medical school, and the remaining four with the university of London and the twelve undergraduate Medical Schools.

It should be emphasised, however, that the Regional Areas are not self-contained medical systems but units of convenient size pivoting on a teaching centre and intended as a basis for planning and administration. There is, for example, no reason at all, because Beaconsfield is in the North-West London Regional Hospital area, why residents in Beaconsfield should not be treated in Hospitals in the Oxford area, if that is most appropriate to their needs, whether on grounds of special medical care or of ease and convenience of access for them and visiting relatives.

2. *Laboratory Services*

The Public Health Laboratory Service, organised and administered by the Medical Research Council for the Ministry of Health since 1939, will continue to be administered on a peace-time basis on behalf of the Ministry of Health for an initial period of five years after the appointed day of the National Health Service Act, 1946.

The Service is concerned with Bacteriology and Epidemiology in relation to the diagnosis, prevention and control of Infectious Disease.

The Regional Public Health Laboratory is situate at Walton Street, Oxford, and, in general, undertakes, free of charge, the bacteriological examination of such specimens as sputum, nose and throat swabs, fæces, urine, blood, etc.

The chemical examination of water and sewage effluent is undertaken by the Public Analyst, Southwark Borough Council.

3. *Ambulance Facilities*

(a) *Infectious Diseases Ambulances*

Each of the four Infectious Diseases Hospitals in the County will continue to maintain its own ambulance, and it is proposed that they should be used solely for this type of work.

(b) *Ambulance Services*

The Bucks County Council will provide an ambulance service for the whole of the County through the agency of the Order of St. John and the British Red Cross Society. One ambulance will be stationed at Beaconsfield.

During the year under review the Beaconsfield Division of the St. John Ambulance Brigade has maintained the Ambulance Service in this Council's area, and by courtesy of Lt.-Col. Hunt, M.B., B.S., D.P.H., I am appending statistics showing the work done during the year.

				1945	1946	1947
<i>Invalids</i>	...	...	...	239	183	159
<i>Road Accidents</i>		...	...	10	17	24
<i>Other Accidents</i>		...	...	15	16	16
				<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
<i>Mileage</i>	...	...	...	5,542	3,967	4,243

(c) *Hospital Car Cases*

In addition to the ambulances mentioned above, the County Council will also be responsible for the provision of hospital sitting-case cars.

4. *Nursing in the Home*

The following Nurse Midwives practised in the town during the year 1947:—

Miss M. E. Hopes, S.R.N., S.C.M., Q.N.

Mrs. L. A. Ayling, S.C.M.

The address for these Nurses was 63, Wycombe End, Beaconsfield, telephone number Beaconsfield 824.

In addition to attending cases in their homes, the nurses gave their services to the monthly Welfare Clinics held at the Old Rectory.

C Sanitary Circumstances of the Area

1. *Sanitary Inspection*

Summary of Sanitary Inspector's Visits.

Inspection of Dwelling Houses during the Year:

(1) (a) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	25
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose ...	37
(2) (a) Number of dwelling-houses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925 and 1932	8
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose ...	8
(3) Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	Nil
(4) Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	3

Remedy of Defects during the Year without Service of formal Notices:

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers.	3
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Proceedings under Public Health Acts:

(1) Number of Dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	19
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Housing Act, 1936—Part IV—Overcrowding

(a) (1) Number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year	18
(2) Number of families living therein	28
(3) Number of persons dwelling therein	76
(b) Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year	2
(c) (1) Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year	12
(2) Number of persons concerned in such cases ...	42
(d) Particulars of any cases in which dwelling-houses have again become overcrowded after the Local Authority have taken steps for the abatement of overcrowding	Nil

2. *Water-Supply*

The water supply of the area has been satisfactory in both quality and quantity. Periodic samples are taken and both the bacteriological and chemical analyses are regarded as satisfactory.

A copy of an analyst's report on a sample taken during 1947 is published as Appendix I to this Report.

3. *Sewerage and Sewering*

Two Sewage Disposals Works serve the District, the Holtspur Bottom Works, which is nearly 34 acres in extent, and the Hedgerley Lane Works of about 26 acres. Both these works are now taking an increased amount of sewage owing to the considerable increase in population during the past 8 years. It will be necessary in the near future for an additional Sprinkler and improved humus tanks to be installed at

the Holtspur Bottom Works. In addition, the disposal of effluent by surface soakage at the Hedgerley Lane Works demands constant attention to prevent ponding in the soakage area, owing to the increase in the quantity of effluent.

During the year additional sewers were laid at:

- (a) Burkes End—A foul sewer.
- (b) Candlemas Mead Site for the new housing estate—foul and surface water sewers.
- (c) Burgess Wood Road South—Extension of main foul and surface water sewers completed.

4. *Refuse Collection and Disposal*

This Council employs two vehicles on refuse collection and further effort is being made to provide a weekly collection of house refuse. Owing to the difficulty in obtaining sufficient labour and an increase in the amount of refuse due to heavy ash deposit from open cast coal, this has been difficult, but during the year the collection has been weekly.

Refuse is disposed of by dumping, where possible by the controlled tipping method. The Council's dump for refuse is a worked-out gravel pit some 250 yards from Lilly Lee Farm and inside the Urban District boundary.

5. *Salvage*

This service is carried out by a hired lorry with driver and our Council workmen.

The amount of salvage collected during the year is as follows:

			Tons	cwts.	qrs.	lbs.
Waste paper	...	...	88	8	3	0
Bones	...	...		11	3	14
Textiles	...	...	1	5	0	0
Bottles	...	...	3	5	1	0
Metal	...	...	0	0	0	0
Total	...		93	10	3	14

Amount received for sales — £673.

6. *Cesspools*

The emptying of cesspools is carried out by the Council's 750-gallon vacuum machine. Every endeavour is made to provide a 24-hour service. During the year 583 cesspools were emptied.

7. *Nuisances*

During the year 35 nuisances have been investigated ; these are chiefly defective drains, cesspools, and deposits of refuse. Considerable assistance is given in this matter by the workmen engaged in refuse collection and cesspool emptying. Each squad gives a daily report into the office in which any matter requiring attention is specially mentioned. It is then investigated, reported, and the necessary action taken.

8. *Sanitary Accommodation*

All houses, except several isolated farms, are provided with water closets.

9. *Disinfection*

Disinfection has been carried out in 17 cases following Infectious Diseases.

10. *Rodent Control*

This service is now directly under the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries, and Mr. G. S. Grey is the Rodent Officer appointed by the Council and approved by the Ministry who contribute part of his salary.

The district has been surveyed and plotted and the scheme of block control kept in operation. The present position is considered to be good, but immediately on receipt of information action is taken and constant checks are made throughout the district.

D Housing

Despite the heavy loss of working time due to bad weather, satisfactory progress has been made in the erection of new houses. During 1947, 19 houses were completed for the Urban District Council, whilst private enterprise built a further 36.

Set out below are details of the various estates which this Council has developed.

Council Housing

Pre-War Housing.

<i>Malthouse Square</i> (1919) Scheme comprises 52 cottages of the parlour type with three bedrooms	52	
<i>Ronald Road</i> comprises 22 cottages of non-parlour type	22	
<i>Amersham Road Estate</i> comprises an area of 13 $\frac{3}{4}$ acres and is laid out for 108 non-parlour type and 16 parlour type cottages. These are split into three sections, thus:		
(a) <i>Waller Road</i> —		
36 non-parlour and 4 parlour type	40	
(b) <i>Hyde Green</i> —		
36 non-parlour and 8 parlour type	44	
(c) <i>Maxwell Road</i> —		
36 non-parlour and 4 parlour type	40	
<i>Fernhurst Close</i> —26 non-parlour type	26	
	—	224

Post-War Housing

<i>Amersham Road</i> —		
16 non-parlour type, completed 1946	16	
<i>Ronald Road</i> —		
4 non-parlour type, completed 1947	4	
<i>Candlemas Mead Estate</i> —		
Scheme for 80 houses: 15 completed 1947	15	
	—	35
Total Housing	...	259

The site works and sewerage to Candlemas Mead Estate are now complete and in addition site works are well in hand for 16 houses in Orchard Road and also preliminaries in connection with the provision of three pairs of Old People's cottages on three sites in the Malthouse Square Estate.

E Inspection and Supervision of Food

1. *Milk Supply*

There are 9 registered milk producers within the Council's area. The milk supply is generally speaking of good quality throughout the year, but two producers require rather more supervision than the remainder.

2. *Meat and other Foods*

There are three licensed slaughter-houses in the District, but due to Control by the Ministry of Food, no killing has been done apart from pigs for keeper's own use.

The following quantities of food were condemned during the year:

Tinned Meat	...	...	...	...	99 tins
Tinned Fish	...	...	...	...	61 tins
Tinned Fruit and Vegetables	...	...	...	...	24 tins
Tinned Milk	...	...	...	...	44 tins
Home killed and imported Meats	...	...	...	...	201½ lbs.
Wet Fish	...	...	...	...	65 stones
Cereals	...	...	...	...	2 packets
Imported Chickens	...	...	...	...	10
Dried Fruits	...	...	...	...	3¾ lbs.
Tinned Dried Egg	...	...	...	...	3 lbs.
Milk Cocoa	...	...	...	...	20 lbs.
Jam	...	...	...	...	2 lbs.

F Welfare Foods

The Local Food Office co-operate very loyally with the Welfare Centre, from which the Welfare Foods are distributed, in addition to those distributed by the Food Office. The percentages of the potential uptake in the Beaconsfield District area are given below. They are compiled by the Ministry of Food during the period ended on the 29th November, 1947 and show that the uptake of these foods in Beaconsfield is good and compares favourably with other districts.

ORANGE JUICE		COD LIVER OIL		A and D TABLETS	
Actual Weekly Uptake	Percentage of Potential Uptake	Actual Weekly Uptake	Percentage of Potential Uptake	Actual Weekly Uptake	Percentage of Potential Uptake
256	84.8	54	60.0	14	66.7

G Prevalence and Control of Infectious Diseases

1. Incidence of Infectious Disease

As mentioned in the introduction of this Report, a greater number of cases of infectious disease have been notified during the year under review than in 1946, but the increase is due mainly to the additional number of notifications of Measles and Whooping Cough received. The incidence of the rarer kinds of infectious diseases which characterised this section of the Report last year, has fortunately not been repeated in 1947.

Set out below are details of notifications received:

Scarlet Fever	...	...	...	...	5
Measles	...	...	...	...	70
Whooping Cough	...	...	...	...	57
Puerperal Pyrexia	...	...	...	...	1
Pneumonia	...	...	...	...	1
Dysentery	...	...	...	...	1

All cases of Scarlet Fever were removed to Booker Isolation Hospital, High Wycombe.

2. Diphtheria Prophylaxis

DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION

Annual Return for Year ended DECEMBER, 1947

I Immunisation in Relation to Child Population

Number of Children who had completed a full course of Immunisation at any time up to 31st December, 1947.

Age at 31.12.47 i.e. Born in Year	Under 1 1947	1 1946	2 1945	3 1944	4 1943	5 to 9 1938-42	10 to 14 1933-37	Total under 15
Number Immunised	2	56	75	87	107	408	327	1062
Estimated mid-year child population 1947	Children under 5 540					Children 5-14 810		

Return for Year ending 31st December, 1947.

Number of children permanently or temporarily resident in the Authority's area dealt with under arrangements made by the Authority or by the County Council.

	<i>Age under 5 years</i>	<i>5 years and over but under 15</i>	<i>Total</i>
(1) Number of children completed full course during year	25	9	34
	<i>Under 5</i>	<i>Between 5 and 15</i>	
(2) (a) Approximate estimated number of children in the Authority's area 31st December, 1947	540		810
(b) What percentage of the child population shown under (a) is it considered were immunised at 31st December, 1947	80 per cent.	81 per cent.	
(3) (a) Number of cases of Diphtheria in children under 15 years of age notified between 1st January and 31st December, 1947			Nil
(b) Number of cases included in (a) in which the child is known to have completed the course of immunisation not less than 12 weeks before the onset of the disease			Nil
(c) Number of deaths from Diphtheria			Nil
(d) Number of deaths included in (c) in which the child is known to have completed the course of immunisation not less than 12 weeks before the onset of the disease			Nil

H FACTORIES ACT, 1937

Prescribed particulars on the administration of the Factories Act, 1937

Part I of the Act

1.—Inspections for purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors).

Premises (1)	M/c. line No. (2)	Number on Register (3)	Number of			M/c. line No. (7)
			Inspections (4)	Written notices. (5)	Occupiers prosecuted (6)	
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	1	11	22	1		1
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	2	33	40			2
(iii) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises)	3					3
TOTAL		44	62			

2.—Cases in which **Defects** were found.

(If defects are discovered at the premises on two, three or more separate occasions they should be regarded as two, three or more "cases.")

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Particulars (1)	M/c. line No. (2)	Number of cases in which defects were found.				Number of cases in which prosecu- tions were instituted (7)	M/c. line No. (8)
		Found (3)	Rémedié (4)	To H.M. Inspector (5)	Referred By H.M. Inspector (6)		
Want of cleanliness (S.1)	4						4
Overcrowding (S.2)	5						5
Unreasonable temperature (S.3) ..	6						6
Inadequate ventilation (S.4)	7						7
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6) ..	8						8
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7) :	9						9
(a) Insufficient	10						10
(b) Unsuitable or defective ..	11						11
(c) Not separate for sexes ..	12						12
Other offences against the Act (not in- cluding offences relating to Outwork)	60	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil		60
TOTAL							

3. *Outwork*

No notification of Outworkers' premises have been received during the period under review.

Appendix I.

**AMERSHAM, BEACONSFIELD AND DISTRICT
WATER COMPANY.**

CHEMICAL RESULTS IN PARTS PER MILLION.

Appearance.....	Bright with a very slight deposit of mineral debris
Turbidity (Silica Scale).....	Less than 5
Colour (Hazen)	Nil
Odour	Nil
Reaction pH	Neutral: 7.1
Free Carbon Dioxide	28
Electric Conductivity at 20°C	475
Total Solids, dried at 180°C	320
Chlorine in Chlorides	11
Alkalinity as Calcium Carbonate	240
Hardness—Total 265.....	Carbonate (Temporary) 240
	Non-Carbonate (Permanent) 25
Nitrogen in Nitrates	3.0
Nitrogen in Nitrites	Absent
Free Ammonia	0.000
Albuminoid Ammonia	0.000
Oxygen absorbed in 4 hours at 27°C.....	0.05
Residual Chlorine	Absent
Metals.....	Iron: Less than 0.03.....Other metals absent

BACTERIOLOGICAL RESULTS.

Number of Colonies developing on Agar per cc. or ml. in:

1 day at 37°C. : 0. 2 days at 37°C. : 0 3 days at 20°C. : 0

Presumptive Coliform Reaction...Present in — Absent from 100 ml.
 Bact. coli.....Present in — Absent from 100 ml.
 Cl. welchii Reaction.....Present in — Absent from 100 ml.

This sample is clear and bright in appearance and conforms to the highest standard of bacterial purity.

The water is considered pure and wholesome in character and suitable for public supply purposes.

Page & Thomas Ltd., Chesham



